UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES VENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dating from the eighteenth century, the Wright House is a frame house measuring approximately 18½ by 38 feet, three bays in length, one room in depth, one and one-half stories in height, with a gambrel roof; shed-roofed porches extend across each long (east and west) facade. A one-story shed-roofed wing stands against the north end. Exterior walls are covered with asbestos shingles and roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The porches are enclosed, largely with windows. The northerly half of the west porch has been extended to form another room. Porch ceilings are covered with random-width beaded boards indicating the porches to be early if not original to the house.

A brick chimney with two flues rises internally at the south end of the house, its first story formerly exposed, nearly flush with the siding (and now covered uniformly with asbestos shingles). Another brick chimney rises externally against the north gable, its first story exposed within the shedroofed wing at that end. The rough and unfinished character of that brickwork does not suggest that it was meant to be exposed to viewing or the weather; either a utilitarian room—perhaps the present wing or an earlier one not unlike it— where appearances and weather were unimportant, or a framed chimney breast enclosure within a more finished room— now missing—always existed here. There is no fireplace facing north and the stack above notains but one flue.

Two shed-roofed dormers, each with 6/6 sash, are in both the east and west roofs.

Principal entrances are in the middle bay of the east and west facades, slightly south of center, and a large 6/6 window is in each of the flanking bays, except for the west facade's north bay where a door gives access to the room which has replaced the porch there.

The east door is in place but the west door has been removed, stored el sewhere on the premises. The east door is of six fully-raised panels, lined internally with vertical beaded boards fastened to the stiles and rails of the paneled door with rose-headed wrought nails. Iong strap hinges and driven pintels remain in use but the large rim lock has been replaced with a late nineteenth century one. Pintels remain at the west door, indicating its former similarity.

In the south gable a six-light casement lights the stairwell in the second story, in the southeast corner of the house.

A door is in the east end of the north wing and two 6/6 windows are in its north side.

Internally each story is divided into two rooms, the southerly one being the larger, occupying two bays and containing the principal entrances.

See continuation sheet #1

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N IONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Griffith House Aberdeen,

CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE .

DESCRIPTION (continued)

In the second story a hall leads from the staircase in the southeast corner to the north room, its area subtracted from the south room.

The south end wall of the south room is fully paneled while other walls are plastered, with baseboard and chair rail. The ceiling is plastered. The upper rails of the paneling are dramatically out-of-level, sloping down from the centered chimney area and they apparently were built to that condition; rails at about chair rail height and bottom rails are approximately level. Panels are fully raised and quirked ovolo moldings are integral on stiles and rails, a profile characteristic of the late eighteenth century.

A large cavetto backband surrounds the large fireplace; it is flanked by plain pilasters supporting fluted blocks in the frieze, matching a similar but wider center block in the frieze. An extended bed-molding supports a shelf with a cavetto molded edge. Above the mantel there is no paneling and the chimney breast is plastered.

West of the chimney is a large closet with a single six-panel door, formerly hung on HL hinges, now replaced with butts. East of the chimney is the staircase, enclosed and winding, to the second floor. Several straight steps, without a rail, lead up to a six-panel door, its head at the ceiling. Its plane is slightly forward or north of the chimney and closet paneling to the west and an area of paneling, containing a four-panel door to the closet beneath the stair, is set on a slight angle to meet the plane of the staircase door.

There is no cornice. The top wall plates project into the rooms, encased, and the corner posts project into the stairway and closets. Posts flanking the two exterior doors are cased with beaded boards and a pair of fully-raised parels fills the space above the door, all slightly forward of the plastered surfaces elsewhere. An ovolo backband applied to the post casing and to the pareling above trims the door.

The beaded chair rail has an ogee molding supporting a plain board cap, its exposed edge simply rounded.

The windows probably are enlarged from the original: their sills are below the chair rail, their panes are considerably larger than the 8"x10" panes typical of the period and their plain trim with raked head all indicate a larger date. Irregularities in the glass suggest that these changes are not

Se ∞rinuation sheet #2

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Griffith House Aberdeen, CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

especially recent, however.

In the stud and plastered partition separating the two rooms of the first story is a six-paneled door slightly east of center. The architrave trim has an ovolo backband and all elements match comparable work elsewhere in the room. Formerly hung on wrought HL hinges, the door is now hung on butt hinges.

Architectural embellishment of the north room is simple: there is neither paneling nor chair rail; the mantel consists of plain pilasters supporting an unmolded frieze containing a single panel with an "X" raise, topped with a plain shelf supported by a vertical echinus molding, all suggestive of the 1840's or 1850's. The window is trimmed as described in the south room. The door to the west room (described above as an extension of the porch) is of four unmolded panels but its architrave surround has an ogee-with-astrigal backband, suggestive of ca. 1815-1830. The six-panel door leading to the north ring is typical of the earlier work described in the south room but it is now hung upside down. Its head is dramatically out-of-level, recalling similar conditions in the south room.

The interior finishes of the north wing and west wing (or extended porch) are plain.

In the second story a short section of rail encloses the stairwell above the triangular lower steps, toward the east. The plain square newel supports a plain square rail, its rounded end projecting slightly beyond the newel. Balusters are plain, square.

The south room has a small fireplace with an architrave surroung matching door trim throughout the house. A small closet west of the chimney has a six-panel door, like the doors to both rooms from the hall, all retaining their wrought HL hinges.

The north room has no fireplace.

The attic is inaccessible and there is no cellar.

All outbuildings are of the twentierth century. One, about ninety feet north of the house and approximately aligned with it, has a stone-walled cellar with an east-west dimension less than that of the frame structure above, recessible via a stone-walled stairwell within the outbuilding, entered through door in the east facade at the southeast corner. It was probably a root cellar or an ice house, originally.

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1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	X.ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wright House was the dwelling of a moderately successful eighteenth century farmer or planter. Its frame construction, its gambrel roof, its porches and its interior detailing are all typical of Maryland's eighteenth century tidewater architecture.

It is strikingly similar to Poplar Hill (listed on the National Register), although smaller: Poplar Hill contains two rooms separated by a hall with an open straight staircase while the Wright House contains two rooms, an enclosed winding staircase and no hall. The earliest ownership histories of the two houses are similar and they stand on opposite sides of a very early mad, a little more than a mile apart.

Most of Harford's County's tidewater lands are within the Aberdeen Proving Grounds (and Edgewood Arsenal, now administratively a part of A.P.G.). The Wright House is between this large military reservation and the industrial development lying along nearby US-40, like Poplar Hill, on a virtual pocket of unchanged farmland. The corridor containing US-40 and the Penn-Central Railroad (and these two historic structures) is slated for industrial development.

While the Wright House has seen some superficial change, most of its details remain, even if hidden by modern finishes, and as the house is untouched by the modern restorer, its details of all periods are wholly honest, identifiable and believable.

The Wright House and surrounding acreage was part of the 1547-acre tract called Cranberry Hall which was owned by John Hall (1658-1737), one of the first settlers in Harford County. The land was passed from one generation to another. It is likely that the elder Hall's grandson John, who received the tract in 1742, may have built the Wright House. Upon his death in 1779, the land was left to his sons, Edward and John Beadle. The Wright House lies on that portion of land left to John Beadle. Upon John Beadle Hall's death, he left one-sixth of his estate to his daughter Martha, and from a search of the land transactions, it is evident that the house was located on the land that she received.

The Halls were a prominent family in Harford County history. It is likely at many of the Hall family lived on the Cranberry Hall tract. Both Poplar Hill and the Wright House are surviving examples of the domestic architecture on this large estate. John Hall, who died in 1779, was one of the commissioners

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Griffith House Aberdeen,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

3

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

appointed to buy land to build a courthouse and prison for newly-formed Harford County in 1773. John Beadle Hall served the county as a member of the militia during the American Revolution. He was second Lieutenant of Company #1, authorized by the duly elected War Committee of the County, and later saw action in the skirmish of White Plains, New York where General Howe and General Washington's forces met. Harford County sent a battalion of two militia companies to assist the Continental Army. John Beadle Hall was captain of one of these Companies.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

HA-163

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Easton, Md.: By the Author, 1934. Page 131, Dr. Forman notes this
as the Griffith House, and his photograph, probably ca. 1932, from
the southeast, shows the house before the addition of asbestos shingles
and before the enclosing of the porches.
See continuation sheet #4

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Griffith House Aberdeen, Maryland

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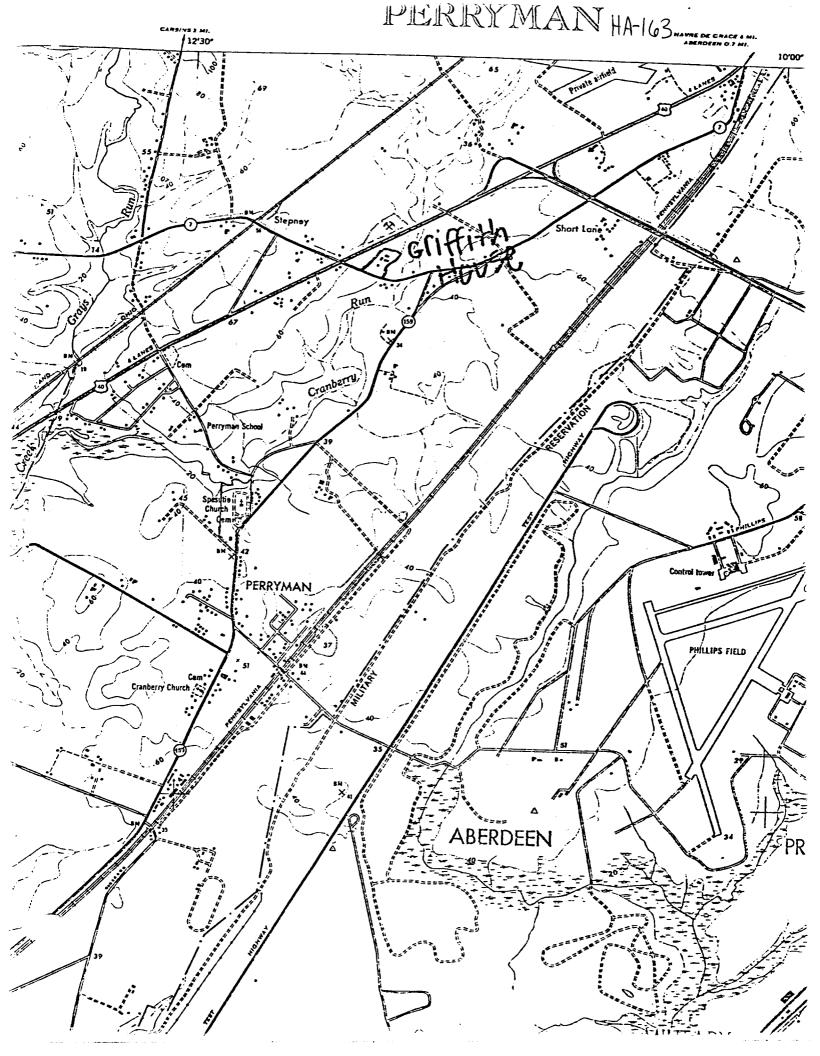
ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 4

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continuation)

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Wright, C. Milton. Our Harford Heritage. Baltimore: French-Bray Printing Co., 1967.



Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR 1301634104 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE N. R. FIELD SHEET NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. DESCRIPTION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Original Site Altered Unaltered DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE Heb roofed house, bosically 3 boys x I soon deep. The rèd gelie faciet east-west. Additions de la cost and north are considerably smaller than addition that une standing during the 1800's when the house was 75 feet long. Porches on the next and south separ of the Louise conceal the essential streeture. Chin reys at either end rice from trupper of unernal size - the wit priplace was of Leating and its west opening, about 3 2' wide or probably The original soil. The much largue cheminey and prep-face in the east, now closed off, was a cooking proplace. Pavelling and ruits were hand-made. glass in the window is wavy, walls are log covered unt clop board.

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9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RE	FERENCES N.	K.			
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10 GEOGI	RAPHICAL DATA					
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11. FORM	PREPARED BY					
NAME AN	ND TITLE:	JEAN S.	EV	WING		
ORGANIZ	ZATION	ARYLAND HIST	OF	RICAL TRUST	DATE	
STREET	AND NUMBER:	50 STATE	C	IRCLE		
CITY OR	TDWN: AN	INAPOLIS		STAMARYLAND		CDDE
12. STATE	LIAISON OFFICER C	ERTIFICATION		NATIONAL REGIST	ER VERIFICATIO	N
tional 89-66 in the evalu- forth level N	e designated State Liais Historic Preservation A 5), I hereby nominate the National Register and o ated according to the cri by the National Park Ser of significance of this r National State	Act of 1966 (Public Law is property for inclusion certify that it has been iteria and procedures so rvice. The recommenden comination is:	n et	I hereby certify that this p National Register. Chief, Office of Archeolog Date ATTEST:	gy and Historic Pre	
Title			_	Keeper of The	National Register	,

Date

Date _

Chear Dun Thanks on the memo on HA 163 and HA 164 - they are the same and the second copy is because my records dibut have them elected all to fow. Titles. Deter the second time.

163 - bright's log horso, help roofed

164 - Pusey's help-roofed house 164- Old Miladelphia Road Fitzephtone If you want to swap nops Ill mail for the up-t-date moster topo. Thouks one much

Tellme- what is in on HA153?

Form 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (Dec. 1968) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE N COUNTY: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER OATE (Type all entries - complete applicable sections) I. NAME ANO/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: Vroad abou VoilL sedo CITY OR TOWN: STATE COUNTY: COOE COOE 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY **ACCESSIBLE** OWNERSHIP STATUS (Check One) TO THE PUBLIC Z Public Yes: Public Acquisition: Building Occupied Restricted _ Privote In Process Site Structure Unoccupied Unrestricted Both Being Considered Preservation work Object in progress PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Agriculturol Government Park Transportation Comments 2 Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify) Educotional Military Religious Scientific Entertoinment Museum OWNER OF PROPERTY Z OWNERS NAME: ш STREET AND NUMBER: 12000 Blea ш CITY OR TOWN: STATE: COOE S 21001 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF OEEOS, ETC: ERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT STREET AND NUMBER: 40 S. MA.N ST. COURTHOUSE STATE COOE COUNTY: MARYLAND APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATEO PROPERTY: 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: OATE OF SURVEY: Stote ENTRY NUMBER Federol 🗌 County [Locol OEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECOROS: FOR NPS USE ONLY STREET AND NUMBER: CITY OR TOWN: STATE: COOE DATE

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	15th Century 17th Century 19th Century						
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	Prehistaric Engineering Religion/Phi- Other (Specity)						
	- A						
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	Art Landscape Sculpture Commerce Architecture Social/Human-						
	Communications Literature itarian						
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MAJOR B	IBLIOGRAPHICAL RE	FERENCES				
Lette	r from Mr	s Howard	- lire	ght 19 Janua	ry 1970	
10 CEOCR	APHICAL DATA			7		
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES OFFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPER				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES OEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
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11. FORM	PREPARED BY					
NAME AN	O TITLE:	CAN S.	EWI	NG		
ORGANIZ	ATION	YLAND HO		C TRUST	OATE	
STREET	ANO NUMBER:	50 STATE	CIRC	LE		
CITY OR	TOWN:	MARYLAND		COOE		
12. STATE	LIAISON OFFICER C	ERTIFICATION		NATIONAL REG	ISTER VERIFICATION	N
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set				I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.		
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National State Local Local				Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Date		
Name				ATTEST:		
Title				Keeper of The National Register		
Date			Date			



Shirth Straight Strai

IF PUBLISHED, PLEASE CREDIT:

DAVID C. HODGE 3103 WOOLSEY DRIVE CHURCHVILLE, MD. 21028 301 - 734-4196



Griffith Hobse HA-163

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DAVID C. HODGE 3103 WOOLSEY DRIVE CHURCHVILLE, MD. 21028 301 - 734-4196

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Griffith House HA-163

> DAVID C. HODGE 3103 WOOLSEY DRIVE CHURCHVILLE, MD. 21028 301 - 734-4196

> > 294-1